

ACFA Quarterly Report

Second Quarter 2002

Census of ACFA Facilities

(As of April 23, 2002)

Commercial Breeders:	1,228
Commercial Kennels:	33
Boarding Kennels:	119
Dealer/Broker:	92
Pet Shops:	74
Contract Kennels:	17
Exhibitors:	6
Hobby/Show Licensed:	27
Hobby/Show Registered:	256
Animal Shelters*:	81
Dog Pounds:	206
Pet Sitters:	7
Intermediate Handlers:	7
Rescue*:	29
Out-of-State (all classes)	<u>26</u>
Total	2,156

**Rescue operations were formerly included in the animal shelter category. Rescues were made an exclusive designation for the license year 2002. As the year continues, we expect that these numbers will change to accurately reflect the number of licensees within these particular categories. An animal shelter has a housing facility intended to house dogs or cats. An animal rescue houses animals within a home where any caging of the animals is strictly temporary.*

ACFA Advisory Committee

The ACFA advisory committee meeting was held June 26, 2002 at the Ramada Inn in Columbia. Approximately 25 people attended the biannual meeting.

New appointees to the ACFA advisory committee included Curt Ransom, representing humane organizations; Lynne Walters, representing commercial breeders; and Kay Kester-Oliver, representing boarding kennels. Members continuing service for another term include Karen Strange, representing hobby/show breeders and Dr. Howard Pue, representing the Department of Public Health. Other committee members in attendance included Anne Edwards, representing professional cat breeders; Bonnie Schindler, representing dealers/brokers; and Lane Craig, representing pet stores.

Topics discussed during the meeting included the addition of an ACFA inspector, quarterly reporting of ACFA activities through a newsletter available on the Internet, program inquiry procedures, and compliance activity.

The next ACFA advisory committee meeting is slated for September 25, 2002 at a location to be announced.

Canine Care Workshop

The USDA sponsored a "Canine Care Workshop" at the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine on June 15, 2002. A second workshop was held in Joplin on June 29, 2002. All but one ACFA employee was able to attend this informative session focusing on canine husbandry.

Featured speakers included Dr. Keith L. Panzer and Dr. Robert S. Youngquist, as well as staff from the U.S. and Missouri Departments of Agriculture. Kennel owners from Missouri and nearby states attended the session.

The ACFA staff would like to thank the USDA for the invitation to the workshop.

Sunshine Law Requests

During the second quarter of 2002, some requests made under the Sunshine Law to copy ACFA files were suspended pending an opinion issued by the Missouri Attorney General's office as to how to handle the requests.

MDA & USDA Joint Conference

MDA and USDA officials met June 14, 2002 to discuss dual-licensed facilities. These facilities include dealers and commercial breeders that are governed by state and federal law.

Among the topics discussed were improved communications between departments and methods for dealing with problem facilities. Both sides agreed that interpreting the law might be causing some problems. In response, ACFA and USDA field staff plan to conduct joint inspections. In doing so, we hope to have more consistency and uniformity in the inspection process and standards.

We hope to continue this type of cooperative involvement with the USDA staff.

Program Inquiries

Since the first of the year, the ACFA office has received 52 written inquiries. Of these, 32 have been closed, and 20 are considered pending.

This process is in place to allow for the public to report abuse, neglect, and consumer complaints. Administration determines statutory jurisdiction in the matter. Inspectors are asked to determine the validity of the complaint and suggest actions to be taken. We are currently working on updating this process so we can generate statistical information for public review.

We have found these inquiries helpful in finding unlicensed activity, and we continue to deal with each case on an individual basis. Any details or documentation that can be provided with written inquiries prove to be valuable when used in our investigations.

Individuals who would like to submit an inquiry or provide information may do so by contacting the ACFA office at 573-751-3076 or 573-751-2494.

Emergency Relief Fund

As of June 26, 2002, the Emergency Relief Fund balance was \$4,950.34

This fund was started by the Missouri Pet Breeders Association to be used within a set of guidelines to prevent animal suffering. The director of the Department of Agriculture administers the fund.

Field Activity

During the first half of the 2002 calendar year, the ACFA staff conducted 855 inspections. Of these inspections, 795 deficiencies were cited in reports.

As the volume of information within our database continues to grow, we hope to address citations that are more common than others. This type of information will allow management to make decisions concerning the enforcement of certain requirements of the Animal Welfare Act and the Animal Care Facilities Act.

Compliance Activity

During the second quarter, four compliance cases were closed. Of these four, one pet store met standards, two commercial breeders corrected their deficiencies, and the Humane Society of Missouri, in cooperation with Greene County officials, removed dogs from an unlicensed shelter.

Three cases are pending. In solving these cases, licenses are held or revoked and legal remedy is sought.

Compliance cases require special attention and are usually resolved through the court system, by agreements to reduce animal numbers or cease business, or by meeting and maintaining standards outlined by Missouri's animal care law.

In bringing these cases to closure, the ACFA program cooperates with the USDA, the Humane Society of Missouri, the Missouri Pet Breeders Association, local law enforcement authorities, and local animal control authorities. We hope to continue building relationships that

lead to proper care for cats and dogs across Missouri.

ACFA Staff Assisting USDA with Avian Influenza Task Force

Some ACFA staff members have volunteered to assist the USDA with the low pathogenic Avian Influenza Task Force based in Harrisonburg, VA. The virus has affected the Shenandoah Valley chicken and turkey population, slowing exportation of poultry to Russia, Japan, India, and Paraguay. This virus is not lethal, yet it has the potential to mutate to the lethal strain, which would cripple any export of poultry from the United States.

USDA is partnering with the United States Forest Service, Department of Public Health, Department of Defense, and private veterinary practitioners in eradicating this virus.

New ACFA Inspector

The ACFA program will add a tenth officer to its ranks next quarter. Judi Riordan-Lolli, animal health officer, will be given ACFA responsibilities as part of her daily workload. During the second quarter, Judi has spent some time training with ACFA staff and brings with her prior experience in kennel

inspections. Judi has been employed by the Missouri Department of Agriculture for several years. While she will continue to work in large animal programs, Judi will also oversee the counties of Putnam, Schuyler, Scotland, Clark, Sullivan, Adair, Linn, and Macon for the ACFA program. We hope that you will extend a welcome to Judi as she takes on an additional role within the Missouri Department of Agriculture. We believe she will be a valuable asset to the ACFA program.

Joint Conference with HSM

ACFA staff met with Humane Society of Missouri staff on April 24, 2002. Prior to the meeting, ACFA employees toured the facility located on Macklind Avenue in St. Louis.

ACFA members gave a demonstration of the new computer-tracking system used during inspection procedures. Humane Society employees shared how the organization gathers and investigates complaints.

Both agencies agreed to share information when preparing news releases